



California Water and Infrastructure Report

Formerly, the “California Drought (and Flood) Update”

For February 7 , 2019

by Patrick Ruckert

Published weekly since July, 2014

An archive of all these weekly reports can be found at both links below:

<http://www.californiadroughtupdate.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaDroughtUpdate>

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“NAWAPA XXI is a resource development plan for a continental water management system, built in collaboration with Canada and Mexico. This proposal will launch the greatest development of North America in history; it will double irrigated agricultural farmland, provide ample hydroelectric power, mitigate or eliminate the risk of floods and droughts, balance the continent’s water distribution, and create 7 million highly skilled and highly productive jobs.”

-----It Shall be NAWAPA That Will Provide Water to the Southwest

A Note To Readers

The President in his State of the Union Address on Tuesday made clear that in every area of policy the administrations of both Democrats and Republicans had failed the American people. He held back very little in his attacks on the previous administrations for nearly 20 years of wars in the Middle-east that have killed more than 7,000 American soldiers and wounded more than 50,000. He once again has said that the Iraq war of the Bush-Cheney administration was the greatest foreign policy mistake in U.S. history.

He made it clear that it was Republicans and Democrats that created the disaster of our immigration policy and southern border problem.

He did not blame China for the problems with trade with that country, but previous administrations that

did not protect our nation, its trade, its industry and its living standards of the American people.

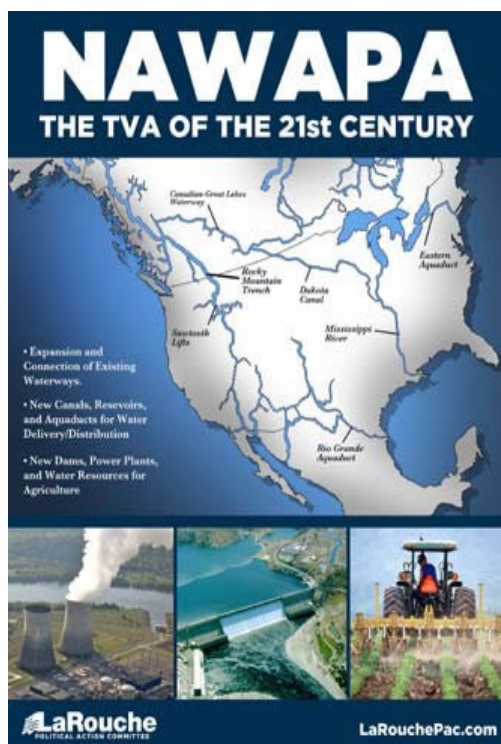
What the President did not do in his State of the Union Address is to present a concrete policy that will guide the nation to be able to achieve what he proposed to achieve, especially on the topic of infrastructure.

That has been and will continue to be the mission of these reports.

As recent weeks' reports have emphasized, the developing crisis on the Colorado River, and its ability to continue to supply more than 40 million people of the southwest with the water they require, is upon the nation now. Rationing plans, as being negotiated and established by the water authorities of the federal government and seven states and innumerable water districts in those states, will merely delay, but never prevent a water supply disaster sooner or later, and most likely sooner.

Only thinking big and acting big will do that. The **Feature** this week is Part I of a series on the 1960s project of those who used to lead our nation in thinking big. That project is the **North American Water and Power Alliance**. Had that project been built beginning when it was both on the drawing boards and legislation in the U.S. Congress in the 1960s, then there would be no crisis on the Colorado River today.

And to use the image the President painted on the genesis of the problems he is attempting to deal with, it has been 50 years of damn wrong policies that created this looming disaster on the Colorado-- wrong policies by both Democrats and Republicans, sucked into anti-growth and anti-government ideologies. They may pretend to oppose one another, but the result is the same.



In This Week's Report

The drought is gone in California. The end of January and the first week of February ended it. So, the reservoirs are full, precipitation levels and the snowpack are above average, and we are freezing our butts off even here in the Bay Area. Oregon remains in drought, but that is a reflection of how El Ninos behave sometimes: California will be wet in the Winter, but the northwest states will be drier

than normal.

But, the Colorado River crisis remains with us and shall do so. An update on the status of the Drought Contingency Plan and more background is found in the section on the region below.

We have not reported on California's "Water Wars" over the past few weeks, as there was little new. Actually that really has not changed much. More and more, as predicted, cities and water districts are suing the state to stop the "water- grab," over the State Water Board decision in December to reduce water diversions for farms and cities from the Tuolumne, Stanislaus and Merced rivers. So, this week we update the readers.

The financial damage from the bankruptcy filing by PG&E is listed by category in a report on that topic.

Under the title of "Infrastructure," is a reminder of just how decrepit it is in the country. A decent summary of the 2017 report from the American Society of Civil Engineers on U.S. infrastructure is linked. The reminder: A minimum of \$4.5 trillion is required to just to fix the existing infrastructure.

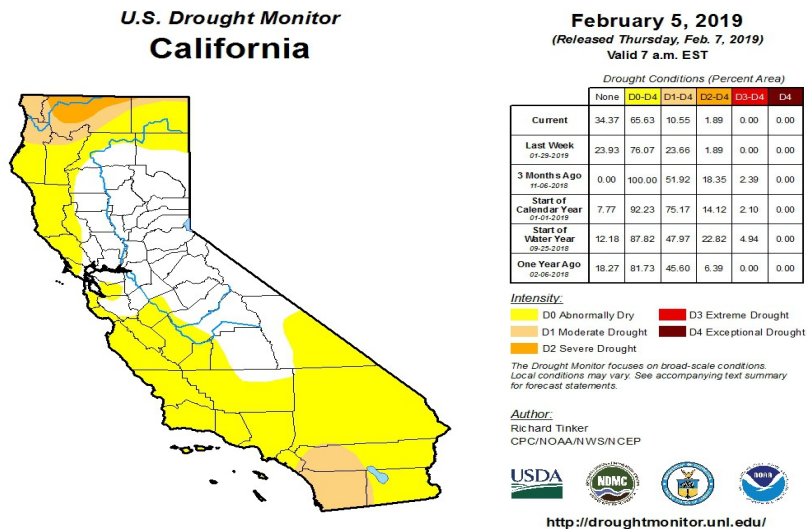
The report concludes with the Feature summarized above.

The Rains and Snow Have Come, Finally

U.S. Drought Monitor

Wow! In just two weeks the area of the state in Moderate Drought or more severe has dropped from more than 50 percent to 10 percent. And the area in the more severe drought categories has virtually disappeared. And only 65 percent of the state is even in the Abnormally Dry category. Not even the precipitation of 2017 that ended the five year drought came close to doing that. Of course, we are in California, and it could be right back into the drought by September.

But, just north of us is Oregon, and the El Nino affect, which often will send atmospheric rivers to California, will produce a winter of dryness in the Northwest states of Oregon and Washington.



Wet winter greatly reduces California drought conditions

February 7, 2019

<https://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Wet-winter-greatly-reduces-California-drought-13597535.php>

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A very wet winter has greatly reduced drought conditions in California. The U.S. Drought Monitor reports Thursday that more than 34 percent of the state including the Sierra Nevada, much of the Central Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area is free of any significant dryness.

The monitor says heavy rain has also removed most of the moderate drought that stretched from the Central Coast down through the southern tier of the state, leaving a lesser condition designated as abnormally dry.

Just about 10½ percent of California — in the far north and south — is categorized as being in moderate or severe drought.

At the start of the year less than 8 percent of California was free of any drought or abnormally dry conditions.

Three-quarters of Oregon is in "Severe Drought"

Nearly all of Deschutes County is facing “extreme drought”

By [Chris Miller](#)

February 4, 2019

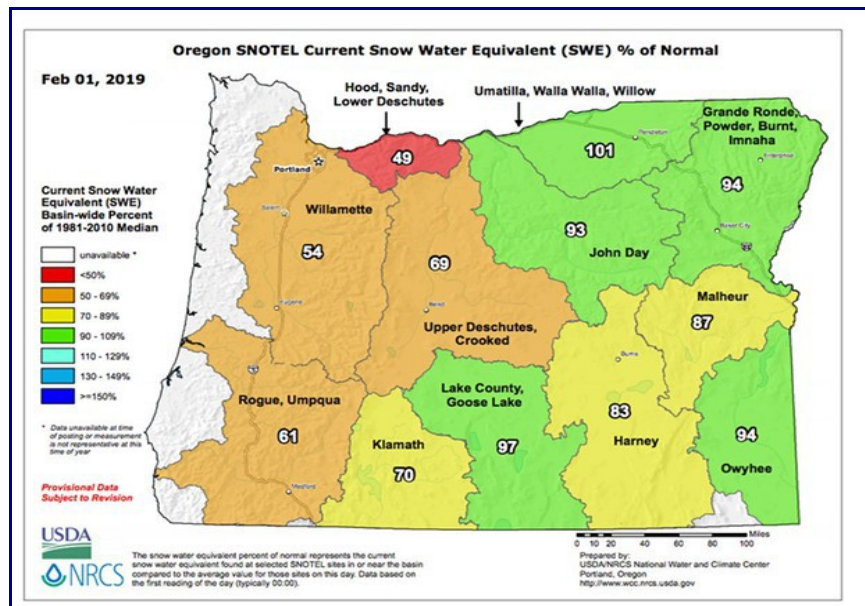
<https://www.bendsource.com/bend/three-quarters-of-oregon-is-in-severe-drought/Content?oid=9302468>

Almost 93 percent of Deschutes County is in extreme drought conditions, according to information released by the U.S. Drought Monitor, a mapping tool produced by a number of federal agencies.



Detroit Lake, Ore. during a low-water year. Canstockphoto.com

One-hundred percent of the county is facing “abnormally dry” conditions, “moderate” and “severe drought,” U.S. Drought Monitor’s data released on Jan. 31 shows. Statewide, the outlook isn’t much better. Nearly 75 percent of Oregon is in severe drought and 90 percent of the state is considered to be in moderate drought conditions—meaning 3.6 million people are living in some level of drought. That includes Lincoln County on the wet Oregon coast, usually immune from low-water years.



According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, only one in 12 basins in Oregon used to measure water content in snow is where it should be as of Feb. 1. The Hood, Sandy and Lower Deschutes Basins are only 49 percent of normal and the Upper Deschutes Basin is just 69 percent of normal.

Here's How California's 6 Feet of Snow in 24 Hours Compares to Other Snowfall Extremes

by Chris Dolce and Brian Donegan

February 3, 2019

weather.com

<https://weather.com/science/weather-explainers/news/2019-02-04-monthly-seasonal-daily-snowfall-records-united-states-of-america>

- June Mountain in the Sierra Nevada picked up 6 feet of snow in 24 hours.
- Its storm-total snowfall tallied 8 feet in less than three days.
- The ski resort was closed on Monday because of all the snow.

Incredible amounts of snow have fallen throughout parts of the Mountain West since last Friday after a one-two punch from winter storms [Kai](#) and [Lucian](#). The Sierra Nevada, straddling the border between California and Nevada, has been particularly hard-hit, where one ski resort tallied 6 feet of snow in just one day.

Taking that crown is June Mountain, east of Yosemite National Park. June Mountain reported [72 inches of new snow](#) in the 24 hours ending 9 a.m. PST Sunday morning.

The official 24-hour snowfall record for California is [67 inches](#), measured at Echo Summit, a mountain pass south of Lake Tahoe, on Jan. 5, 1982.

The storm-total snowfall at June Mountain from Friday through mid-morning Sunday was [measured at 96 inches](#), according to the National Weather Service in Reno, Nevada.

Winter Brings A Year's Worth Of Water For 9 Million Californians

By [Peter Chawaga](#)

February 6, 2019

<https://www.wateronline.com/doc/winter-brings-a-year-s-worth-of-water-for-million-californians-0001>

Storms in the beginning of January brought an influx of snow to the Sierra Nevada and heavy rains elsewhere in the state, boosting its water reservoirs exponentially.

Over the first three weeks of January, “47 key reservoirs that state water officials closely monitor added 580 billion gallons of water — as much as roughly 9 million people use in a year;” according to the [Chico Enterprise-Record](#). “The combined storage in the reservoirs ... has expanded 15.96 million acre feet on New Year’s Day to 17.74 million acre feet now. Each acre foot is enough water to flood an acre of land a foot deep, 325,851 gallons.”

The Sierra Nevada snowpack is at 114 percent of normal and almost all of the major reservoirs around the state are at or above their historical averages. This is an undoubtedly positive development for a state that has long struggled with water scarcity.

The Colorado River

With Colorado River water shortages looming, feds will intervene on drought plan

By [Bettina Boxall](#)

Feb 01, 2019 |

<https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-colorado-river-shortage-20190201-story.html>



Nearly two decades of drought have depleted Lake Mead, which is only 40% full. (Ross D. Franklin / Associated Press)

The federal government Friday moved closer to imposing water delivery cuts along the drought-depleted Colorado River after California and Arizona failed to meet a deadline for inking a broad agreement on how the seven states that depend on the river would cope with shortages.

The federal official who manages the lower Colorado River had set Thursday as the deadline for the states to agree on a drought plan. Without a deal, the Interior Department would step in and begin to develop its own shortage plans, Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner [Brenda Burman](#) had warned.

All eyes were on Arizona this week as state lawmakers took a last-minute vote on their part of the pact. They approved the plan Thursday afternoon, just hours before the deadline, but Arizona officials still haven’t finalized a variety of documents.

In addition, a California irrigation district with massive river rights has yet to sign off on the agreement.

On Friday, Burman acknowledged that the states had made “tremendous progress” on their drought

contingency plan. However, she added, “close isn’t done.”

The Interior Department has broad legal authority to manage the lower Colorado River, and Burman said the agency would start the formal legal process of soliciting comments on how it should impose cuts.

She repeatedly declined to answer questions of how those cuts would be carried out. “We’re looking for ideas,” she said.

Federal river managers say there is a 57% likelihood that Lake Mead levels will fall so low next year that the officials will have to declare a shortage for the first time.

The drought contingency plan spells out how the three states supplied by Lake Mead — California, Arizona and Nevada — would reduce river use to keep the reservoir from plunging even further toward disastrous levels that could end hydropower production and even releases from Hoover Dam.

Even without prolonged drought, it has become obvious in recent decades that the river is over-allocated. The states divvied up flows in the early 20th century, a period that in hindsight was unusually wet and presented an unrealistic picture of what the Colorado could produce year in and year out.

The sprawling Imperial Irrigation District, which is the single largest user on the entire length of the river, has withheld its final signature on the drought pact until other parties sign and it gets a commitment from the federal government to help pay for Salton Sea restoration.

Beyond Drought: 7 States Rebalance Their Colorado River Use as Global Warming Dries the Region

By Bob Berwyn

InsideClimate News

Feb. 1, 2019

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/31012019/colorado-river-water-crisis-climate-science-state-conservation-plans>

To the contrary, recent scientific research shows that the Colorado's flow is very likely to drop even more in the years ahead.

Since 2000, temperatures have [persistently run well above average](#). The heat sucks water out of the ground, as do thirsty plants. And the high country snowpack has dwindled, too.

From 1916 to 2014, flows in the Colorado dropped 16.5 percent, even though total precipitation in the upper basin increased slightly during that period, said Jonathan Overpeck, a climate researcher at the University of Michigan, who has written several studies showing the lasting impacts of warming.

In a recent [study](#), Brad Udall and other researchers found that rising temperatures and changing precipitation patterns reduced Colorado River flows between 2000 and 2014 by 19 percent compared to the 1906–1999 average.

The term “drought” may not be useful anymore because it implies a short-term condition with an end in sight, said Udall, who works for the [Colorado River Research Group](#). He calls it aridification instead, and says the negotiating over sharing the water is a dry run for the future of water use in the Southwest under climate change.



Ominously, some studies have already suggested the region is at the beginning of a megadrought, based in part on reliable projections that global warming will drive an expansion of subtropical dry areas, which means the deserts of the Southwest could encroach on what are now the water producing-areas of the Colorado River Basin, he added.

Drought deal trips over Calif. water district demands

Jeremy P. Jacobs, E&E News reporter Greenwire: Wednesday, February 6, 2019

<https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060119799>



The Imperial Dam and the All-American Canal System, located in the southeastern corner of California, includes the Imperial Diversion Dam and Desilting Works, the 80-mile-long All-American Canal, the 123-mile-long Coachella Canal and appurtenant structures. Andy Pernick/Bureau of Reclamation/Flickr

A California water district and a looming environmental disaster have impounded drought contingency negotiations on the Colorado River.

The Imperial Irrigation District, or IID, is California's biggest user of Colorado River water, servicing nearly 500,000 acres of farmland in the southeast corner of the state.

It is now refusing to sign on to a basinwide drought contingency plan unless more federal money is provided to address the Salton Sea, a shrinking lake that is exposing a toxic-dust-emitting lake bed.

IID is an important player in the river negotiations, based on sheer volume. It delivers up to 2.6 million acre-feet per year of Colorado River water — and has the rights to about 500,000 acre-feet more. An acre-foot is about 326,000 gallons, or as much as a Los Angeles family uses in a year. California's entire allocation of Colorado River water is 4.4 million acre-feet.

Under the DCP outline, California isn't required to cut back until Lake Mead drops to 1,045 feet. But at that point, California must cut 200,000 acre-feet, and IID was planning to make up more than half of that — 125,000 acre-feet, according to IID spokesman Robert Schettler.

IID's board approved the drought plan in December, but it put three conditions on that action, including roughly \$200 million in federal funds for the Salton Sea.

"The Salton Sea is an integral part of the Colorado River system," Hanks said. "The feds are not waiting on IID. IID is waiting on the feds."

Once a tourist hot spot, the Salton Sea — California's largest lake at 350 square miles — now sits on the brink of disaster.

The lake filled accidentally in 1905 when a temporary channel dug across the border in Mexico for the Colorado River gave out. Since then, it's been fed by farm runoff in the booming Imperial Valley, where 80 percent of the country's winter vegetables are grown.

That changed in 2003, when California facilitated the country's largest farm-to-city water transfer.

It required IID to send water to San Diego and the neighboring Coachella Valley, depriving the Salton Sea of its inflows.

The agreement gave the state 15 years to come up with a solution to prevent the lake from rapidly shrinking, exposing a lake bed that emits toxic dust when winds whip through the area.

That ended in 2017, with little to no progress ([Greenwire](#), June 13, 2016).

The lake is rapidly drying up. More than 100 square miles of the lake bed are likely to be exposed, creating a public health risk for nearby disadvantaged communities already suffering from increased asthma rates ([Greenwire](#), June 20, 2016).

Now, IID says that before it will sign the DCP, the federal government needs to provide \$200 million that was allocated in last year's farm bill to Salton Sea efforts.

That would approximately match another \$200 million in a water bond earmarked for the Salton Sea that California voters approved last year.

No, California Water Wars Have Not Gone Away; They Have Just Shifted to the Courthouse

As you can see from the following report, cities and water districts from all over northern California are piling on to sue the state for the “water grab” that *the State Water Board decision in December to reduce water diversions for farms and cities from the Tuolumne, Stanislaus and Merced rivers will result in.*

Lawsuits from Central Valley, Bay Area keep state ‘water grab’ tied up in courts

[By Ken Carlson](#)

February 05, 2019 05:13 PM,

<https://www.modbee.com/news/article225533030.html>

An assortment of groups, from a leading farming organization to a water supplier for Silicon Valley, joined the legal fray in courts over the State Water Board decision in December to reduce water

diversions for farms and cities from the Tuolumne, Stanislaus and Merced rivers.

Monday, the California Farm Bureau Federation said it filed a lawsuit in Sacramento Superior Court, charging the water board's plan misrepresents and underestimates the impacts on Central Valley agriculture, which is the lifeblood of local communities. The plan would require irrigation districts to leave 30 to 50 percent of watershed runoff in the rivers from February through June to push young salmon downstream to the San Joaquin-Sacramento delta and the ocean.

Lawsuits opposing the Dec. 12 decision were filed in early January on behalf of Modesto, Turlock, Oakdale, Merced and South San Joaquin irrigation districts. The Farm Bureau, with 36,000 members in California, filed its own suit because many of its members outside those water districts are affected by the state board decision, a spokesman said

The suit charges that the Bay-Delta water quality plan for the lower San Joaquin River and its tributaries violates the California Environmental Quality Act because the economic losses and community impacts are "insufficiently analyzed, insufficiently avoided and insufficiently mitigated."

Jim Houston, the Farm Bureau's manager of government and legal affairs, said the state's environmental review also failed to consider impacts related to California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. After irrigation deliveries are cut, farmers will desperately turn to groundwater pumping to keep their trees alive, but are certain to run into SGMA restrictions.

As a regulatory agency, the state water board is obligated to harmonize the competing interests that receive Northern California water that's transported through the delta by the state and federal water projects. Near the end of the Dec. 12 meeting in Sacramento, the board members agreed to delay the next step in the process until March, which allowed more time for voluntary settlement talks between state Department of Natural Resources staff and local irrigation districts.

The State Water Board decision also is opposed by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, which is supporting litigation to protect its Tuolumne River supplies in Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, the source of deliveries for 2.7 million Bay Area water customers.

Also challenging the plan is the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Its lawsuit in mid-January attacks the state's environmental review for not accounting for depletion of groundwater in Santa Clara County. About 15 percent of water from Silicon Valley cities like San Jose, Palo Alto and Mountain View comes from the San Francisco PUC.

The delta plan also drew a Jan. 25 lawsuit from a coalition that wants to save the historic migrations of chinook salmon in the rivers.

The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations charged the plan has insufficient flows for protecting imperiled salmon and other species in the delta. The coalition, including the North Coast Rivers Alliance and Winnemem Wintu Tribe, claims that numerous public trust resources, including fish, wildlife and recreation, will be adversely affected because the river flows were set below the 60 percent in the state's 2010 flow criteria report.

A water board led by Chairwoman Felicia Marcus, a former lead attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council, hasn't given Central Valley leaders much confidence of finding an acceptable middle ground.

The district's suit also alleges the Bay-Delta plan violates state and federal due process laws; that is, water rights are property and property can't be taken away without due process.

In addition, TID also claims the board's environmental review was "unlawfully segmented" when the Bay-Delta plan was broken into two phases looking separately at the San Joaquin and Sacramento

watersheds. Godwin cites scientific opinion affirming that the delta issues can't be resolved without contributions from both river systems.

California Farm Bureau Federation files lawsuit to block plans for San Joaquin River

Feb 04, 2019

By: [Noëlle Lilley](#)

<https://www.turnto23.com/news/local-news/california-farm-bureau-federation-files-lawsuit-to-block-plans-for-san-joaquin-river>

San Francisco sues state over potentially drastic water reductions

[Kurtis Alexander](#)

Jan. 10, 2019

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/science/article/San-Francisco-sues-state-over-potentially-drastic-13524356.php>



Water supplies at Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite National Park, pictured on July 28, 2016, would have to be steered toward fish under a plan by the State Water Resources Control Board. The city of San Francisco is not standing down in California's latest water war, joining a lawsuit Thursday against the state for ordering more of the Photo: Michael Macor / The Chronicle

The city of San Francisco is not standing down in California's latest water war, joining a lawsuit against the state on Thursday to stop it from directing more of the Sierra Nevada's cool, crisp flows to fish instead of people.

City officials contend the State Water Resources Control Board is overreaching with [a new, sweeping plan](#) to restore California's depleted river system by limiting draws on such water supplies as San Francisco's Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite. The plan, according to city estimates, will force Bay Area households to cut water use by 20 percent or more.

The formidable alliance of San Francisco and some of the state's largest irrigation districts has one other partner: the Trump administration. The Interior Department, as well as President Trump himself, have threatened to intervene on the side of water users, saying the state should not put the environment in front of human interests.

The U.S. government operates a reservoir on the Stanislaus River that will be subject to the state water restrictions. Federal officials have discussed suing.

PG&E Bankruptcy Continues Its Fallout

As reported here last week, even those victims of PG&E responsibility for fires in past years, who have arranged payments from the company now shall go to the end of the line behind all other “secured creditors.”

10 Mind-Numbing Figures That Define PG&E's Bankruptcy

It could cost up to \$150 billion just for PG&E to comply with court orders -- and that's only one outrageous figure.

Sean Williams

Feb 5, 2019

<https://www.fool.com/investing/2019/02/05/10-mind-numbing-figures-that-define-pges-bankruptc.aspx>

*In the business world, tomorrow isn't guaranteed. Once the king of all retailers, **Sears Holdings** filed for bankruptcy protection in 2018 and has narrowly avoided liquidation in early 2019. In 2002, WorldCom, the second-largest telecom provider in the U.S. at the time, filed for bankruptcy protection amid one of the largest accounting scandals of our time. No business is beyond challenges or the possibility of going belly-up one day.*

*This past week, on Tuesday, Jan. 29, California gas and electric utility **PG&E** ([NYSE:PCG](#)) became the latest brand-name company to [declare bankruptcy and join this dubious list](#). Of course, PG&E's bankruptcy, which was coerced by its potential liabilities tied to the Camp Fire in 2018 and more than a dozen other Northern California fires in 2017, will be anything but straightforward. The proceedings, ultimate resolution, and presumed reemergence from bankruptcy could take years, with the costs to the company, its consumers, and ancillary industries being almost mind-numbing.*

With the bankruptcy process just kicking off, here are 10 of the most outrageous figures you should know:

1. **\$51.69 billion in liabilities**
2. **\$71.39 billion in assets**
3. **Up to \$150 billion in costs to regain compliance:** According to U.S. District Judge William Alsup, who is tasked with ensuring that PG&E meets the conditions of its probation following a 2010 gas pipeline explosion, PG&E was to inspect its power grid and remove or trim trees that could potentially fall onto power lines and cause a fire. But based on a filing in U.S. District Court in San Francisco during the second week of January, [per Reuters](#), doing so would cost PG&E up to \$150 billion, and is simply not economically feasible. The utility estimates that in order to accomplish this task, it would have to pass along a 400% rate hike to its 16 million customers.
4. **More than \$29 billion in lost market cap**
5. **Up to \$3.7 billion lost by its three top stockholders**
6. **1.93 million unsuspecting investors**
7. **\$130 million in proposed bonuses for 2018**
8. **A \$2.5 million severance package for its former CEO**
9. **\$2.2 billion in renewable energy contracts in limbo**

10. *Up to \$1,400 an hour in lawyer fees*

Infrastructure

A useful reminder of the 2017 report from the American Society of Civil Engineers on U.S. infrastructure, which requires now a minimum of \$4.5 trillion just to fix existing infrastructure. In your mind compare that to both what the White House and the Congress have proposed. It does not even come close.

America's infrastructure is decaying — here's a look at how terrible things have gotten

Cadie Thompson and Mark Matousek

Feb. 5, 2019

[https://www.businessinsider.com/asce-gives-us-infrastructure-a-d-2017-3?](https://www.businessinsider.com/asce-gives-us-infrastructure-a-d-2017-3?fbclid=IwAR3x98ghWY1DgKYoodHKBiVeITyhB9cCsBhtW_vp8x3kur3Nr-ohzRKuoRs#wastewater-d-16)

[fbclid=IwAR3x98ghWY1DgKYoodHKBiVeITyhB9cCsBhtW_vp8x3kur3Nr-ohzRKuoRs#wastewater-d-16](https://www.businessinsider.com/asce-gives-us-infrastructure-a-d-2017-3?fbclid=IwAR3x98ghWY1DgKYoodHKBiVeITyhB9cCsBhtW_vp8x3kur3Nr-ohzRKuoRs#wastewater-d-16)

America's infrastructure is desperately in need of investment, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers. The ASCE estimates the US needs to spend some \$4.5 trillion by 2025 to fix the country's roads, bridges, dams, and other infrastructure.

No matter what Trump says about infrastructure during his State of the Union address, one thing is clear: America's infrastructure is in dire need of repairs.

According to the American Society of Civil Engineers' [2017 Infrastructure Report Card](#), which is published every four years, US infrastructure gets a D+ grade. It got the same grade in 2013.

The ASCE estimates the US needs to spend some \$4.5 trillion by 2025 to improve the state of the country's roads, bridges, dams, airports, schools, and more.

The report breaks down the state of infrastructure in 16 different categories. Here's a look at each category's final grade, according to the organization.

Its Not Just the Broken Down Infrastructure, Look What It Has Helped to Create

With Typhus now sweeping through the encampments of the 60,000 homeless in Los Angeles, and a new study that shows there are more drug addicts than high school students in San Francisco, rather than, as some do, blame it on “liberals” (whatever those are), see it as the California expression of a nation-wide drug epidemic that kills now almost 70,000 Americans each year-- one of the “diseases of despair.” It is not merely in this state, but some of the most conservative states in the country, have an epidemic of opioids that is out of control. The State of Maine, for example, has one of the highest opioid death rates in the country.

San Francisco — where drug addicts outnumber high school students

[Phil Matier](#) Jan. 30, 2019 Updated: Jan. 31, 2019 10:26a.m.

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/philmatier/article/San-Francisco-where-street-addicts-outnumber-13571702.php>

San Francisco has more drug addicts than it has students enrolled in its public high schools, the city Health Department's latest estimates conclude.

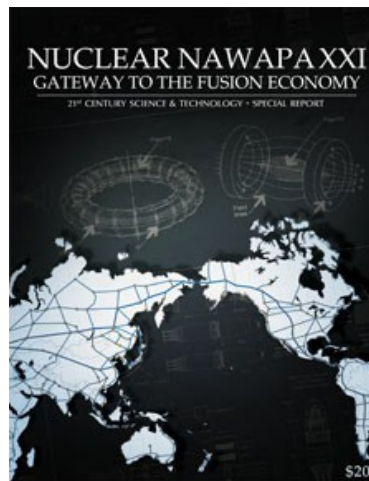
There are about 24,500 injection drug users in San Francisco — that's about 8,500 more people than the nearly 16,000 students enrolled in San Francisco Unified School District's 15 high schools and illustrates the scope of the problem on the city's streets.

It's also an increase of about 2,000 serious drug users since 2012, the last time a study was done.

"There is an opioid epidemic in this country, and San Francisco is no exception," Deputy Director of Health Dr. Naveena Bobba said.

Feature

It Shall be NAWAPA That Will Provide Water to the Southwest



Build NAWAPA XXI-- Part I

This shall be Part I of a series of excerpts from the pamphlet, "Platform for a New Presidency: The Full Recovery Program for the United States." Subsequent weeks will see more of this pamphlet in these pages.

Originally Published by Executive Intelligence Review

June 7, 2013

https://larouchepub.com/eiw/public/2013/eirv40n23-20130607/20-30_4023.pdf

"Every Member of Congress, everyone in the executive branch from the President on, in the field of national resources, has to plan during their period of administration or office, for the next generation, because no project that we plan today will be beneficial to us. Anything we begin today is for those who come after us. And just as those who began something years ago make it possible for us to be here, I hope we'll fulfill our responsibility to the next generation that's going to follow us."

—President John F. Kennedy Pueblo, Colorado, Aug. 17, 1962



Glass-Steagall halts the collapse, canceling the bail-in and bail-out system, and a credit system creates the potential for economic growth. Credit only functions with goals and an orientation for the economy. We will need a specific project-orientation that can capture the imagination of the citizenry, rapidly create large numbers of opportunities for skilled productive employment, and generate a guaranteed process of economic growth in the coming decades. Surveying the needed improvements in our nation, we see the collapse of our water resources and food supply are arguably the most pressing concerns, both immediately and in the longer term. NAWAPA XXI, an updated version of a project pro-posed by the Ralph Parsons Company in 1964, answers these needs.

NAWAPA XXI is a resource development plan for a continental water management system, built in collaboration with Canada and Mexico. This proposal will launch the greatest development of North America in history; it will double irrigated agricultural farmland, provide ample hydroelectric power, mitigate or eliminate the risk of floods and droughts, balance the continent's water distribution, and create 7 million highly skilled and highly productive jobs.

Such a plan is essential. Earlier prospects for nu-clear desalination and continent-scale water management systems were sabotaged by the anti-growth and "environmentalist" policies of the 1960s and '70s, with results that now pose an immediate threat to our ability to supply the most basic of needs: food.

Short-term improvements can come from changing farm policy, regulating commodity speculation, and eliminating the destructive transformation of food into fuel. But shrinking water resources and diminishing groundwater supplies mean sharply reduced population potentials in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico in the future, unless NAWAPA XXI is built.

The History of NAWAPA

Let us remember that only a generation or two ago, all the great rivers of America—the Missouri, the Columbia, the Mississippi, the Tennessee—ran to the sea unharnessed and un-checked. Their power potential was wasted. Their economic benefits were sparse. And their flooding caused an appalling destruction of life and property. This nation began to develop its rivers systematically, to conserve its soil and its water, and to channel the destructive force of these great rivers into light and peace. And today, as a result of this, the face of this nation has been changed. Forests are growing where there was once dirt and waste. Now there is prosperity where our poorest citizens lived. . . . The question which confronts us is the whole question of our resource development in the western United States in the 1960s. Surely a continent so rich in minerals, so blessed with water, and a society so replete with engineers and scientists can make—and must make—the best possible use of the bounty which nature and God have given us, public and private, federal and local, cooperative and corporate.

—President John F. Kennedy, Oahe Dam, South Dakota, Aug. 17, 1962

The Tennessee Valley Authority of President Franklin Roosevelt demonstrated that man was capable of harnessing not just the flow of rivers—turning what had been an enemy of the people living there into an ally working along their side—but of bringing the functioning of entire river systems under his conscious control. With locks, dams, canals, and reservoirs, we were able to bring the entire hydrological cycle of the Tennessee Valley under our dominion and induce the once wild rivers to act at our behest, generating abundant electricity and irrigating our fields. At the same time, large Colorado River storage facilities began to be constructed, followed by the California Water Plan, and similar projects, creating the potential for the enormous productivity of western agriculture.

At the end of the 1950s, a similar design was conceived for river systems from the Mississippi River all the way west, and north to the Arctic, named the North American Water and Power Alliance (NAWAPA). This would be a TVA, but on a far greater scale. Not only would we engineer the hydrological cycle within a single basin, but we would carry water from one basin to the next, from Alaska to Mexico, linking them to create a North American-wide water management system—a continental TVA.

At the same time, the plans were being laid to bring man into space, engineering studies were underway to demonstrate the feasibility of such a vast project on earth. The NAWAPA plan was originally designed by the Ralph M Parsons engineering firm in California.

In the early 1960s, Sen. Frank Moss of Utah became its leading advocate, forming the Senate Special Sub-committee on Western Water Development to study the feasibility of the plan, as well as entering into an inter-national dialogue with Canada about the shared necessity of the development of both nations. There was early support from Canada's Prime Minister Lester Pearson, as well as widespread bipartisan support in both houses of Congress. In September of 1965, Senator Moss introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution 55, calling for NAWAPA to be referred to the U.S.-Canada International Joint Commission. A similar resolution was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives for consideration. Among the cosponsors of the NAWAPA resolution was Sen. Robert Kennedy, who wrote in a letter to Moss:

"I am glad to join you as a co-sponsor of S. Con. Res. 55 expressing the sense of Congress that the President refer to the International Joint Commission the subject of the North American Water and Power Alliance. . . . This proposal deserves careful study and consideration by both the United States and Canada, and has applications to the East as well as the West."

However, though a juggernaut was building in favor of this project, official government action on NAWAPA stalled as the United States was sucked into heavy combat in Vietnam in the years following John F. Kennedy's death

Though support for the project continued among leadership in both the United States and Canada, a cultural paradigm shift was in progress away from Kennedy's "New Frontiers" and into drugs, existentialism, and radical environmentalism. With the assassination of Robert Kennedy in June of 1968, the formerly brilliant hope of NAWAPA faded. The outlook for infra-structure-building came to a halt and the government of the United States submitted to the formerly intolerable and unscientific Malthusian doctrines of over-population and scarcity of resources, in contrast with all prior trends of mankind's technological development and role as a creative force on the planet.

Water shortages were guaranteed to come, as pumping drew down underground water levels and aquifers were depleted, while surface water runoff management and reservoirs became completely insufficient for farm, residential, power, manufacturing, and other uses.

(To be continued)